

## JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

### Regular Meeting-January 13<sup>th</sup>

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person on **Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

#### **Members present:**

Mayor Kim Lape; Council members: Deb Plahn, Tim Houg, Stacie Smith;

**Employees present:** City Clerk-Treas: Renae Jennings, Deputy Clerk/Treas.: Maggie Erickson; Public Works Superintendent: Brian Thode; Building and Grounds: Kevin Jennings

**Pipestone Star:** Kyle Kuphal;

**Community members:** Cindy Jamison, Kim Drew, Chris Johnson, Brad & Rick Van Dyke, Chris Klein with LG Everest, Jennifer and Vince with DSI, 2 Rose Dell representatives

Mayor Kim Lape called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance;

**Agenda Approval: Motioned by: Plahn 1<sup>st</sup>/Houg 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed**

**Removed:** None

**Added:** None

**Community Input:** None

#### **Review and approve minutes from:**

- Budget Meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Motioned by: Houg 1<sup>st</sup>/Plahn 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed**
- TNT Meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> - **Motioned by: Plahn 1<sup>st</sup>/Houg 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed**
- Regular Meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> - **Motioned by: Houg 1<sup>st</sup>/Plahn 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed**
- Special Meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> - **Motioned by: Houg 1<sup>st</sup>/Plahn 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed**

**Review/Approve receipts and claims to date. Motioned by: Houg 1<sup>st</sup>/Plahn 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed**

#### **Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage:**

It was noted that the list is longer this time and was suggested that it may be because Christmas may have been harder for people. Houg asked about the battery issues were about and it was explained that the machine just sometimes doesn't catch everything.

**Wellness Center/QCC:** Lape said everything is in working order.

#### **New Business:**

- **MVTV** - Lape asked if Julie was here and Renae said she was not but that all they needed was approval for them to go up on the water tower to install their transmitter. Renae also let them know that MVTV did get approval already to be able to use the shed below the water tower. **Motioned by: Plahn 1<sup>st</sup>/Houg 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed**
- **DSI** – Vince Robinson presented to council an overview of the program and what they are offering again. They spoke about the small city's development program, specifically Housing Rehab, Commercial Rehab and Public Infrastructure & Streetscape. Applications will be due in fall this year. Those who were part of the program before are not eligible for the new one. It was explained that the city could go for funding owner occupied, rental/multi-family, commercial or infrastructure, but that anything above owner occupied does lower the chances of being selected. Council asked for a little more time to discuss which direction they wanted to go in.
- **LG Everest** – Asked if there were any questions to begin with based on the proposal that was went over a couple of months ago. Lape mentioned that Rose Dell township gentlemen were in

attendance as well. Lape said it was the first time they had ever done an annex. She had done research and found that the piece of land they are wanting to annex brought in \$6.81 to Rose Dell. LG rep spoke about the surveys that will be required for the park and other properties and the annex property and asked about cost sharing. Lape said to find out from Rock County what everything is and wait to hear back from Rose Dell after they have their meeting. LG representative asked if the city was willing to approve it tonight, we would work together to get the ball rolling.

**Motioned by: Houg 1<sup>st</sup>/Plahn 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed.** Discussion was had about the deconstruction that was going on at their property and it was said CHS was just removing some things. It was mentioned that there has been discussion about explosives being used to bring down the elevators.

- **VanDyke Sanitation** – Brad Van Dyke said it slipped their mind that the contract expired December. He said landfill rates have gone up twice since the last contract was signed 5 years ago. Said they were looking at getting a \$2 raise on the small and medium cans and a \$5 raise on the large can. Claimed it is still a lot cheaper than other places (Pipestone and Edgerton as an example). Explained that the landfill gets upset when they share their cost of large can being so close to the medium because it does not promote recycling. Brad said Edgerton does it different and that theirs goes up 3% annually. Keep fuel charge the same. Brad said the 5-year contract would lock us in for the prices for that time and suggested the landfill will likely be increasing their costs again. Reiterated that it is just the tote cost that is changing. Brad said they haven't had any complaints but Lape said the city does. Renae said the city gets all of them and that they get filtered through us and then we call Van Dyke directly. She said that Maggie has been yelled at multiple times. She said there have been quite a few times people's trash doesn't get picked up for a few weeks at a time. She also said that she has been going out to verify if there is a valid reason trash was not picked up. Brad said that he tries to take pictures as well when they don't take a can. Brad also suggests that people set it out the night before. **Motioned by: Plahn 1<sup>st</sup>/Houg 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed** to approve the 5-year contract. Renae asked if there was a limit on trash tags. They said no. Rick suggested that if people consistently get tags, they should look at getting another tote.
- **Chris (Kip) Johnson** – Kip was present to talk about fireman wage increase. Hourly rate is currently \$10/hr. and retirement are at \$775/year. Asking for a couple of dollars per call and upping retirement to \$1k/year. Asked if it is something that can be reviewed every few years. Lape said we would also need rural approval. Kip said that if council wants to change things, then they would have to bring it to rural and it would include Fire/EMS director and Smith and Houg would have to be there as well. Lape said the thinks it is long overdue. Kip reiterated that an increase would give some incentive. Said they are the ones going out in the middle of the night, along with ambulance, working side by side in the dangers. Spoke about Pipestone getting \$3500/year for pension and \$12-\$13/call, but they also have more requirements. Kip said it doesn't have to be tonight. Lape suggested \$11/call and \$1k/annual. Kip said they have guys that don't show up for 5 months at a time. Smith asked if they had plans to do any benefits to increase their funds. Plahn asked how many meetings the average fireman attends. Kip said on the lowest end, 10, but most make 20 or more. Kip said he has at least 10 are very dedicated and show up to the calls and meeting and volunteering. Smith suggested selling calendars. Kip said they have thought about bringing back the

pancake feed and other ideas. Plahn suggested looking into other towns around to see what their pay is. Lape said to check towns of similar size. Kip will work on that.

- **Kim Drew** – Stated they did their officer voting and that she would remain president, Jim is vice-president, Karen is secretary and Maddy is treasurer. Their board members are Wayne, Brian S and Lana. Kim began her building update and said prices have doubled. Said Kurt Jandl is doing the doors and flooring and it will cost roughly \$13,250.00. Then spoke about the splitter. Kim said they had a board meeting and decided to use the ambulance association funds to pay for it, which costs \$7,998.00 before electrical. Kim said she was getting a bid from Houslog for the electrical and it's who JD Rieke works with. Kim said she had a discussion with Brian about the location earlier that day and where to put the can trailer and that they were going to put the splitter out from the building. Brian asked what happened to putting it on the south side. Kim said that they (contractor) would rather not do that and that they would rather go directly out and that it is just easier. She said it is unfortunate they don't have any other wall space that goes directly out except that west wall. Lape asked where it was going to be put (can trailer). Kim said it will go out from the building and there just aren't many options. Kim said they considered the bar and behind the building behind the EMS building. Kim also said they would put two poles by the compressor. Lape asked Kim if she got a different bid outside of Kurt. Kim said she did but that the bid was \$19k. Kim said EMS and fire will rip out carpet themselves. Spoke of the poor air conditioning and adding heat. Lape mentioned Prairie Rose grant info she sent them. Kim then updated on the officers for the fire department. Kim invited Smith and Houg to the quarterly meetings. Lape thanked Kim for working on the safety data sheets.
- **Jasper Museum** – Renae asked that their water bill be forgiven after their water leak as other properties have had the same forgiveness in the past. **Motioned to approve the forgiveness of the water bill by: Smith 1<sup>st</sup>/Houg 2<sup>nd</sup>. All eyes followed.**
- **Pay Equity Act** – Renae just wanted to let them know that a notification as sent about an audit report needing to be submitted by January 2027. She said she was not here for it and has little knowledge on what it is at the moment, but will do more research to figure out what has to be done. She asked if anyone had knowledge of it to please share it. Said it was just a heads up and that it will likely be staying on the agenda.
- **City Code update** – Renae provided council members with a copy of the city code and a schedule to update 1 chapter a month and do one big ordinance change at the end of the year. Reiterated that it needs to be cleaned up a little bit.
- **Employee Evals** – Scheduled for before the next council meeting at 6pm and the 11<sup>th</sup> they will do evals, beginning at 6:00pm.
- **Work Comp Renewal** – Dropped by 25% this year. Went from \$7,687 to \$5,831. **Motioned to approve Work Comp Renewal by: Smith 1<sup>st</sup>/Houg 2<sup>nd</sup>. All eyes followed.**
- **Appoint Gov. Structure Committees** – The lawyers name needed updated. Renae printed a new copy. Plahn said to wait to sign because we had to appoint the attorney first. **Motioned to approve Matt Gross as attorney by: Plahn 1<sup>st</sup>/Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. All eyes followed.** Following that, **Motioned to approve government structures with the change of Matt Gross, by: Smith 1<sup>st</sup>/Houg 2<sup>nd</sup>. All eyes followed.**

- **Zoning and Planning Member** – Renae said Doug Tilma came in and expressed interest in becoming a zoning member. **Motioned to approve Doug Tilma as a zoning committee member by: Plahn 1<sup>st</sup>/Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed.**
- **Acting Mayor** - **Motioned to approve Deb Plahn as acting Mayor by: Houg 1<sup>st</sup>/Plahn 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed.**
- **Delegate Bank** - **Motioned to approve Peoples Bank as official depository by: Plahn 1<sup>st</sup>/Houg 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed. Smith refrained due to conflict of interest.**
- **2026 mileage reimb.** - **Motioned to approve mileage reimbursement rate for 2026 at \$0.725 by: Houg 1<sup>st</sup>/Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed.**
- **Sunday Liquor Sales on 2026 ballot** - **Motioned to approve adding Sunday liquor sales to the ballot by: Smith 1<sup>st</sup>/Plahn 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed.**
- **City annual schedule** – Renae said it was just a schedule that shows essentials days such as when the office is closed and council meetings. Said it isn't really published because we have other ones for that. Included swim lesson dates and things like that.
- **City Annual Fee Schedule** – Renae said there was an increase by Lincoln Pipestone water increase by \$0.15 and we historically follow the same increase on our end. Then spoke about the fee schedule and asked council to go over the fees and see if there are any increases and schedule a public hearing. Plahn asked if nothing is changed then they don't have to have a public hearing. Renae said no. Brian said it seems like they do it a few months ago. Plahn said Van Dyke changed theirs, so it has to be updated there. They spoke about the garbage tags and Lape suggested \$5/tag. Lape said we will table it until next month.
- **MMUA 2026 safety trainings** – Renae said it is just the schedule city employees have to attend.
- **DSI Transfer of loan** – Renae said the city was contacted to transfer Matt Haroldson loan to Macey Haroldson and it needs councils' approval. She also said there is no signing tonight because it has to be notarized. **Motioned to approve the transfer of the loan by: Plahn 1<sup>st</sup>/Houg 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed.**
- **Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co Service contract for 2026** – Lape asked if they are asking for anything yet and Renae said no. Smith asked if this is one that needed to change. It was said that they would be maintained for auditing. **Motioned to approve continuing with Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co by: Houg 1<sup>st</sup>/Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed.**
- **Bluepeak Increase in charges** – Renae said it would be great to push Alliance. Plahn said older individuals aren't as tech savvy to do it. Brian suggested that we do something up in the Hall to have a sign-up sheet, like they did with Knowledgey. Smith volunteered to help with it. Renae suggested doing it during the fireman feed because it brings lots of people out.
- **Citizen complaint form** – Lape read the complaint outload. Amanda Rouzer said the facility was not clean, claiming there was urine and poop on toilets, counters, floor, tables and counters were not cleaned. Amanda provided photos. Renae said she was asking for reimbursement. **Motioned to approve reimbursement by: Houg 1<sup>st</sup>/Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes followed.** Lape asked if there was a checklist. Kevin said there is and said it was an oversight on his part. Said he did all of upstairs and instructed Spirit to focus on downstairs. Said he just did a basic check and that he should have looked

